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## Casey rips NBC on 'security leak'

WASHINGTON (AP) — CIA director William Casey charged yesterday that an NBC-TV news report about U.S. submarine activities violated a law against disclosing information about communications intelligence.

Casey said he was referring the matter to the Justice Dept.

John Russell, a spokesman for the Justice Dept., refused to comment on the matter.

The NBC report said that accused spy Ronald Pelton may have shared information with the Soviets concerning electronic eavesdropping by U.S. submarines operating underwater in Soviet harbors.

In the report, NBC said that Pelton apparently gave away one of

the National Security Agency's most sensitive secrets — a project with the code name "Ivy Bells."

The network said the project was an underwater eavesdropping operation by American submarines inside Soviet harbors.

Pelton, a former employee of the National Security Agency, the Defense Dept.'s communications intelligence spy division, is standing trial in U.S. District Court in Baltimore on charges that he spied for the Soviets.

An NBC spokesman said: "NBC News has referred Mr. Casey's allegations to its legal counsel for review."

The "Comint law" cited by Casey was enacted in 1950 to protect U.S. codes and code-breaking

capabilities.

To date, it has never been used against a news organization, although several spies have been successfully prosecuted under it.

Casey recently threatened to prosecute several news organizations.

He said they disclosed that U.S. intelligence had intercepted Libyan communications before the bombing last month of a West Berlin disco, reportedly by Libya agents.

The CIA director also asked the Justice Dept. to block the Washington Post from publishing an article about U.S. intelligence capabilities. He was turned down.